

Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Application 09/437,246
Attorney Docket No. Q56708

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5. (Two Times Amended) An ink cartridge for a printing apparatus providing ink to a print head through an ink supply needle and removably attached to the print head, comprising:
an ink chamber for containing ink;
an ink supply port for supplying ink from said ink chamber to the print head of the printing apparatus, said ink supply port comprising an external opening;
a packing member provided in said ink supply port, forming an ink channel for allowing a flow of ink, said packing member sealing the ink supply needle of the printing apparatus by fitting therewith, said packing member comprising a hole and a protruding rim surrounding said hole; and
a valve device contained in said ink supply port, closing said ink channel by elastically abutting against said protruding rim of said packing member, said valve device selectively opening and closing said ink channel in conjunction with the ink supply needle.